MACA UPDATE

FALL 2013

Northwest Territories Municipal and Community Affairs

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Introduction

Every fall, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) publishes and distributes the MACA Update to community governments. The purpose of the MACA Update is to provide community governments with an indication of the level of funding they can anticipate for the coming year. Please note that the funding projections included in this document are subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly.

The information contained in this document can be very useful for community governments, especially in those cases where the fiscal calendars of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the community government are different. Therefore, MACA strives to include as much information as possible to assist community governments with their planning.

The information provided in MACA Update also includes information on funding projections, new and existing programs, services and initiatives, and information on MACA policies and legislation that have recently been changed or are currently under review.

I hope that you find this year's MACA Update useful. If you have questions about the information included in this document, please contact your Regional Superintendent for more information.

Honourable Robert C. McLeod
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

Financial Projections and Information

MACA adheres to the provisions of the Community Government Funding Policy, an Executive Council policy, to allocate funding to community governments for operations and maintenance, water and sewer services, and community public infrastructure. Projected funding for community government in 2014-2015 is not considered final until formal approval has been received by the Legislative Assembly.

In addition to the funding described above, MACA also annually provides community governments with funding to support specific costs; refer to page 4 for projected

2014-2015 funding for the following purposes:

- Mobile Equipment – assists Designated First Nation Authorities with the purchase of mobile equipment.
- Utility Funding – assists Designated First Nation Authorities with the utility costs of the community public infrastructure in their community.
- Seniors/Disabled Property Tax Rebate – support for rebates to ratepayers who are senior citizens or disabled.
- Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes – provides a grant-in-lieu of property taxes for GNWT infrastructure located within cities, towns and villages.
- Property Tax Grant Program – provides a grant to most non-tax-based community government's equivalent to the amount of property taxes actually paid by residents in the prior taxation year.

In addition to the above programs, MACA also administers the Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) on behalf of the Government of Canada. Please refer to the GTA at www.maca.gov.nt.ca for additional information and details regarding the GTA.

Operations and Maintenance Funding[1]

Community	Approved 2013-2014	Proposed 2014-2015
Aklavik	1,577,000	1,568,000
Behchoko	1,870,000	1,973,000
Colville Lake	789,000	809,000
Deline	1,483,000	1,485,000
Dettah	551,000	539,000
Enterprise	793,000	818,000
Fort Good Hope	1,495,000	1,476,000
Fort Liard	1,251,000	1,255,000
Fort McPherson	1,499,000	1,538,000
Fort Providence	1,272,000	1,304,000
Fort Resolution	1,012,000	1,041,000
Fort Simpson	1,475,000	1,511,000
Fort Smith	1,740,000	1,764,000
Gameti	1,192,000	1,216,000
Hay River	1,945,000	1,938,000
Hay River Reserve	629,000	664,000
Inuvik	2,630,000	2,562,000
Jean Marie River	519,000	531,000
Kakisa	427,000	437,000
Lutselk'e	746,000	750,000
Nahanni Butte	566,000	565,000
Norman Wells	1,166,000	1,170,000
Paulatuk	1,655,000	1,655,000
Sachs Harbour	1,487,000	1,499,000
Trout Lake	553,000	573,000
Tsiigehtchic	1,368,000	1,391,000
Tuktoyaktuk	1,697,000	1,747,000
Tulita	1,629,000	1,674,000
Ulukhaktok	1,614,000	1,645,000
Wekweeti	1,010,000	1,025,000
Whati	1,497,000	1,534,000
Wrigley	581,000	605,000
Yellowknife	7,332,000	7,422,000
Total	**47,030,000**	**47,684,000**

Notes
(1) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

Water and Sewer Services Funding[1]

Community	Approved 2013-2014	Proposed 2014-2015
Aklavik	589,000	617,000
Behchoko	1,046,000	1,066,000
Colville Lake	321,000	327,000
Deline	555,000	571,000
Dettah	232,000	233,000
Enterprise	194,000	198,000
Fort Good Hope	542,000	564,000
Fort Liard	595,000	627,000
Fort McPherson	807,000	841,000
Fort Providence	518,000	561,000
Fort Resolution	581,000	601,000
Fort Simpson	708,000	805,000
Fort Smith	294,000	352,000
Gameti	354,000	362,000
Hay River	341,000	511,000
Hay River Reserve	297,000	306,000
Inuvik	616,000	775,000
Jean Marie River	432,000	443,000
Kakisa	204,000	204,000
Lutselk'e	416,000	426,000
Nahanni Butte	420,000	434,000
Norman Wells	458,000	504,000
Paulatuk	344,000	351,000
Sachs Harbour	311,000	319,000
Trout Lake	405,000	400,000
Tsiigehtchic	412,000	417,000
Tuktoyaktuk	480,000	701,000
Tulita	558,000	573,000
Ulukhaktok	391,000	582,000
Wekweeti	299,000	301,000
Whati	564,000	579,000
Wrigley	374,000	383,000
Yellowknife	-	-
Total	**14,658,000**	**15,934,000**

Notes

(1) Actual amounts per community in 2013-2014 dependent on actual activity of communities.

(2) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

Community Public Infrastructure Funding[1]

Community	Actual 2013-2014	Proposed 2014-2015
Aklavik	823,000	823,000
Behchoko	1,036,000	1,036,000
Colville Lake	675,000	675,000
Deline	809,000	809,000
Dettah	708,000	708,000
Enterprise	646,000	646,000
Fort Good Hope	805,000	805,000
Fort Liard	815,000	815,000
Fort McPherson	864,000	864,000
Fort Providence	866,000	866,000
Fort Resolution	799,000	799,000
Fort Simpson	943,000	943,000
Fort Smith	1,114,000	1,114,000
Gameti	735,000	735,000
Hay River	1,260,000	1,260,000
Hay River Reserve	736,000	736,000
Inuvik	1,231,000	1,231,000
Jean Marie River	640,000	640,000
Kakisa	620,000	620,000
Lutselk'e	768,000	768,000
Nahanni Butte	665,000	665,000
Norman Wells	869,000	869,000
Paulatuk	740,000	740,000
Sachs Harbour	668,000	668,000
Trout Lake	646,000	646,000
Tsiigehtchic	696,000	696,000
Tuktoyaktuk	899,000	899,000
Tulita	789,000	789,000
Ulukhaktok	772,000	772,000
Wekweeti	675,000	675,000
Whati	788,000	788,000
Wrigley	692,000	692,000
Yellowknife	2,210,000	2,210,000
Total	**28,002,000**	**28,002,000**

Notes

(1) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

Proposed 2014-2015 "Other" Community Government Funding[1]

Community	Seniors/ Disabled Rebate [2]	Grant-in-Lieu[2]	Property Tax Grant Program[3]	Mobile Equipment	Utility Funding	Insurance Funding
Aklavik	-	-	24,000	-	-	-
Behchoko	-	-	75,000	-	-	-
Colville Lake	-	-	-	6,000	190,000	25,000
Deline	-	-	21,000	-	-	-
Dettah	-	-	5,000	8,000	49,000	7,000
Enterprise	-	-	17,000	-	-	-
Fort Good Hope	-	-	19,000	-	-	-
Fort Liard	-	-	29,000	-	-	-
Fort McPherson	-	-	47,000	-	-	-
Fort Providence	-	-	34,000	-	-	-
Fort Resolution	-	-	26,000	-	-	-
Fort Simpson	12,000	343,734	-	-	-	-
Fort Smith	85,000	705,565	-	-	-	-
Gameti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hay River	129,000	576,696	-	-	-	-
Hay River Reserve	-	-	-	47,000	44,000	32,000
Inuvik	34,000	1,763,806	-	-	-	-
Jean Marie River	-	-	-	34,000	120,000	52,000
Kakisa	-	-	-	27,000	33,000	20,000
Lutselk'e	-	-	15,000	42,000	104,000	56,000
Nahanni Butte	-	-	-	36,000	139,000	39,000
Norman Wells	-	54,048	-	-	-	-
Paulatuk	-	-	6,000	-	-	-
Sachs Harbour	-	-	8,000	-	-	-
Trout Lake	-	-	-	45,000	22,000	22,000
Tsiigehtchic	-	-	12,000	-	-	-
Tuktoyaktuk	-	-	76,000	-	-	-
Tulita	-	-	26,000	-	-	-
Ulukhaktok	-	-	19,000	-	-	-
Wekweeti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whati	-	-	16,000	-	-	-
Wrigley	-	-	-	29,000	149,000	47,000
Yellowknife	178,000	3,518,318	-	-	-	-
Total	**438,000**	**6,962,000**	**475,000**	**274,000**	**850,000**	**300,000**

Notes

(1) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

(2) Budgeted amount; actual amounts will be invoiced from the eligible community governments.

(3) Budgeted amount based on historic experience; actual amounts provided in 2014-15 may be different depending on property tax payment activity of community residents.

Gas Tax Agreement Funding[1]

Community	Actual 2013-2014	Proposed 2014-2015
Aklavik	294,000	294,000
Behchoko	617,000	617,000
Colville Lake	183,000	183,000
Deline	268,000	268,000
Dettah	205,000	205,000
Enterprise	170,000	170,000
Fort Good Hope	272,000	272,000
Fort Liard	278,000	278,000
Fort McPherson	336,000	336,000
Fort Providence	317,000	317,000
Fort Resolution	259,000	259,000
Fort Simpson	425,000	425,000
Fort Smith	704,000	704,000
Gameti	212,000	212,000
Hay River	1,016,000	1,016,000
Hay River Reserve	219,000	219,000
Inuvik	965,000	965,000
Jean Marie River	163,000	163,000
Kakisa	158,000	158,000
Lutselk'e	225,000	225,000
Nahanni Butte	174,000	174,000
Norman Wells	343,000	343,000
Paulatuk	214,000	214,000
Sachs Harbour	174,000	174,000
Trout Lake	170,000	170,000
Tsiigehtchic	189,000	189,000
Tuktoyaktuk	349,000	349,000
Tulita	274,000	274,000
Ulukhaktok	248,000	248,000
Wekweeti	178,000	178,000
Whati	262,000	262,000
Wrigley	170,000	170,000
Yellowknife	4,519,000	4,519,000
Total	**14,550,000**	**14,550,000**

Notes

(1) The Gas Tax Agreement between Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories contains specific reporting and accountability provisions that must be fulfilled by community governments prior to funding being provided, please refer to Appendix D.

New Programs, Services and Initiatives

Federal Infrastructure Programs

The Federal Government and all provinces and territories have begun discussions regarding the permanency of the Gas Tax Fund and the replacement of the Building Canada Fund.

As part of the Federal Budget announced in March 2013, the Federal Government proposes to provide federal support of over $53 billion, including over $47 billion in new funding over 10 years, starting in 2014-2015, for provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure projects.

The GNWT has recently received a draft of the new Gas Tax funding agreement with Canada. At this point, MACA can confirm that the funding program will be permanent, indexed and the eligible spending categories have been expanded to include such things as sport and recreation infrastructure. MACA is working to review and finalize the agreement so that new funding agreements can be prepared and in place for all community governments prior to March 31, 2014.

The new Building Canada Fund will provide $14 billion nationally to aid major economic projects of national and local significance across the country. Exact details of how this funding will be distributed have yet to be announced, but Canada indicates they have committed to having these agreements in place by April 1, 2014. MACA will continue to provide updates on these funding programs as details are announced.

Changes to MACA as a Result of Devolution

On April 1, 2014, the GNWT will be taking on new responsibilities as a result of the final devolution agreement with the Government of Canada. In order to best prepare for these new responsibilities, which include local management of our land and resources, the GNWT is undertaking some reorganizing of departmental structures and responsibilities.

For MACA, devolution will mean that the Lands Administration Division will leave the department and become a part of the new Department of Lands. MACA will retain the responsibility for assessment services that support community tax base calculations, and the department will work closely with the Department of Lands to ensure services are still available to support community government needs going forward.

As the devolution implementation date draws closer, MACA will continue to share all available information related to normal business operations with community governments.

Children and Youth Resiliency Initiatives

MACA is establishing a new initiative called The Children and Youth Resiliency Program (CYRP) to help communities establish or expand quality youth programming that supports the mental and physical development of children and youth.

The School of Community Government, in cooperation with education and health experts will develop and deliver a training model for community youth center and recreation staff and accredited day care providers that will help these organizations to develop programming that supports the healthy development of children and youth.

The CYRP funding will be allotted for the purpose of training youth program staff, to develop and implement new or expand existing programs that promote physical literacy, activity, mental health, healthy eating and other Healthy Choices goals.

Community Funding Formula Review

All community governments receive their funding based on a formula that was developed in cooperation with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) and community governments. This funding formula is based on independent, objective factors that ensure funding is fair, but responsive to changing community needs.

Over the next year, MACA will be working to review the funding formulas included in the Operations & Maintenance Funding Policy, the Water and Sewer Services Funding Policy, the Community Public Infrastructure Funding Policy and the Gas Tax allocation. By reviewing the funding formulas, we can examine any new challenges that community governments may be facing and possibly amend them to better meet community government needs. The results of the review will determine if any changes to the formulas will be required.

Community governments will be consulted throughout the process through the NWTAC and the Local Government Association of the Northwest Territories (LGANT).

Accountability Framework for Community Governments

Since the implementation of the New Deal for NWT Community Government in 2007, community governments have been in control of their own infrastructure priorities. Building on the ideas and intentions of the New Deal, MACA worked with the NWTAC and LGANT to develop the Accountability Framework. The Framework emphasizes and reinforces the goals of the New Deal initiative, and supports the Assembly's goal of a strong north built on partnerships.

The Accountability Framework focuses on 12 key indicators deemed to be critical to community government success. Using these key indicators MACA will work with community governments to communicate areas of success or challenge and seek to support communities in areas where challenges are identified.

As part of the Accountability Framework, MACA recognizes that the information collecting and reporting demands on community governments are significant. It is important that wherever possible, reporting required to meet obligations with other agreements (i.e. Gas Tax Agreement and Building Canada Plan Agreement) is streamlined with MACA's requirements for information and reporting. The Framework takes steps to reduce redundancies in the reporting requirements expected of communities.

MACA has created new Assistant Regional Superintendents in all regions and is actively recruiting and filling these positions. These new hires will be responsible for supporting community governments in the implementation of the Accountability Framework. These new Assistant Regional Superintendents will support the delivery of three Accountability Framework workshops for Mayors/Chiefs and Senior Administrative Officers delivered in November and December 2013.

Implementation of the Framework is also being supported by the department through the development of an ongoing communications plan, intended to ensure that the dialogue between community governments and the department is open and clear.

Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives

Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue

MACA is leading an interdepartmental advisory committee, composed of the Departments of Justice, Transportation, and Health and Social Services to develop a strategy to support the delivery of ground ambulance and highway rescue services in the NWT. The strategy will inform a review of the current ground ambulance and highway rescue funding program to ensure that GNWT policy objectives are clear and meet the needs of community governments in delivering ground ambulance and highway rescue services in and around their communities.

In summer 2013, eligibility for funding available through the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding Program was expanded to all community governments. This ensures all communities have access to available funding to help train volunteer personnel. In addition, vehicle purchases now qualify as an allowable expense.

In addition to the program review, MACA will be working to complete a project aimed at helping communities recruit and manage volunteers required for effective ground ambulance and highway rescue services. This work will begin in the fall of 2013.

Public Service Capacity Initiative

The Public Service Capacity for Local Governments Initiative is a collaborative effort between MACA and Human Resources, the NWTAC and LGANT. The initiative involves a series of programs and services that will help to address challenges concerning the recruitment and retention of key senior administrative staff at the local government level.

Advancing Local Government Administrator Program (ALGAP)

The Advancing Local Government Administrator Program (ALGAP) is the flagship program of the Public Service Capacity Initiative and was launched at the annual general meeting of the NWTAC in May 2010. Through ALGAP, community governments can apply for up to two years of funding to support either a trainee or mentor for their senior administrator position, depending on the current needs of the local government.

ALGAP has an annual budget of $500,000 and provides assistance within the following three categories of support.

Investing Locally (Category One): This category includes local governments who do not have a Local Government Administrator (LGA) on staff. A local trainee is identified to receive training and support from an experienced administrator. The administrator is hired to provide both support to the trainee and to carry out the operational responsibilities of the LGA. To support retention, the trainee is expected to fill the LGA role for a minimum of two years of service upon successfully completing the program.

Succession Planning (Category Two): This category allows a local government whose LGA is within two years of retirement or departing for other reasons to train a successor. The LGA acts as a mentor to a trainee while performing his/her LGA duties. To support retention, the trainee is expected, upon successful completion, to succeed the outgoing LGA for a minimum of two years.

Skill Builders (Category Three): This category allows a community's LGA who is interested and in need of training and development, opportunities to access funding to improve the professional skills the LGA position he/she already holds.

The council of a local government must support any application for ALGAP funding by motion. Other conditions for successful applications are: a contribution agreement must be signed, a candidate must be identified and an agreed upon, approved training plan must be in place.

Together with the pilot projects that were launched in 2009-2010, there are now 11 community governments participating in and benefiting from this program.

Other Programs

Other programs of the Public Service Capacity Initiative include the Good Governance Workshop Series offering training for elected leaders; human resources contracted services; national job postings; and a new website with complete program information at www.33strong.com. Other components of the initiative are still under development; these include a mentorship program, community self-assessment tools, and a "pool of professionals" program.

For more information about the Public Service Capacity for Local Governments Initiative, visit www.33strong.ca.

Policy and Legislation

Repealed Legislation

In the closing days of the fourth session of the 17th Legislative Assembly, the Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers Act and the Act to Repeal to Curfew Act received assent from the Commissioner of the NWT.

As a result, MACA will complete the necessary steps to repeal both pieces of legislation in the fall of 2013.

Civil Emergency Measures Act

The Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA) is old legislation that puts an emphasis on dealing with emergencies of a purely local nature. The statute does not provide sufficient authority for GNWT emergency plans dealing with pandemics, national and international security issues, wildfire or climate-related emergencies.

MACA has consulted with stakeholders to address concerns regarding CEMA, these consultations have led to a number of proposed amendments to the legislation. In the spring of 2014, MACA will move forward with a Legislative Proposal to introduce these amendments to the Legislative Assembly.

Fire Prevention Act

The Fire Prevention Act was initially passed in the mid-1970s and has never been thoroughly reviewed. This is important legislation that relates to a number of public safety issues so a review of the Act is being undertaken. The review will be guided by a working group made up of representatives from partner organizations, technical experts, and departmental staff. As the working group completes their review, they will work to clarify the regulatory regime and offences, ensure that investigation mechanisms comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and update penalties.

In the fall of 2014, MACA will move forward with a legislative proposal to amend the current Fire Prevention Act

Municipal ATTIP

Currently, community governments do not have clear rules regarding privacy and access to information. MACA is consulting stakeholders to determine whether the Access to Information Privacy and Protection Act (ATIPP) might be applied to community governments in the NWT.

Primary research has been conducted to better understand how ATIPP legislation has been applied to municipal governments in other jurisdictions. The next step is to conduct research to determine what the results have been in relation to costs, issues with implementation, and any concerns that may have been raised in other jurisdictions.

The Municipal Access and Privacy Working Group was formed and will begin consultations with stakeholders to develop recommendations about how best to move forward with the development and implementation of privacy and access to information legislation for community governments.

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